

February 8, 2013

Jill Clayton
Information and Privacy Commissioner
410, 9925 - 109 Street
Edmonton, Alberta
T5K 2J8

Dear Ms Clayton,

Albertans expect their government to respect their fundamental rights and freedoms. The government has made firm and repeated commitments to the importance of privacy. The government must also be prepared to demonstrate how it models this behaviour instead of using it to further their own agenda

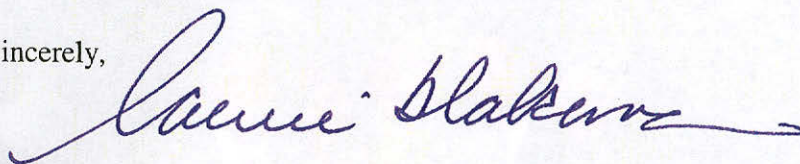
I am requesting an investigation by the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner into the Minister of Education's use of the Teachers' Certification contact list in order to contact all teachers in Alberta directly, often to their home emails. Teachers gave their email addresses for one purpose: to register as professionals in the province. They did it in good faith and with an expectation of privacy; not to receive overtures from the Education minister. The email addresses of over 30,000 teachers came from the teacher's registry. I believe this is a violation of sections 32(c), 33, 34, 35 and 41 of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act*. Section 41 specifically states that the use of the information must be consistent with the purpose for which it was gathered. The act is very clear that information collected for one specific purpose cannot be disclosed to other agencies without consent. I contend the Minister misappropriated personal information and is using it for his own political reasons.

This incident demonstrates my concern over the ongoing adoption of lower thresholds for obtaining personal information and the inter-departmental sharing of this information. Only prior authorization truly provides the rigorous privacy protection Albertans expect. This contact directly from the Minister circumvents the proper channel of contact to these individuals either through the school boards that are their actual employers, or to their Union, circumventing the collective bargaining process which is currently underway.

As this government collects and creates more and more databases of Albertans' information, it must exercise utmost diligence to collect the least amount of information necessary with the highest degree of anonymity.

I would respectfully ask that you take these comments into consideration and conduct a full and thorough investigation of this incident.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Laurie Blakeman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Laurie Blakeman MLA, Edmonton – Centre

cc Minister of Education, Jeff Johnson
Alberta Teachers Association, Carol D. Henderson, President
Alberta School Boards Association, David Anderson, Executive Director